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President's Notes

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

These Notes, written as 1976 draws to a close, provide an opportunity to summarize various program initiatives of interest to our readers. (More comprehensive treatment will follow in my *Report to the Navy's Leadership—Past, Present and Future* now at the printer.)

With regard to the curriculum, the process of consolidation and refinement continues following the fundamental change in education concept Admiral Turner introduced. This year we have a substantial electives program. Students will have the alternative of a term paper or a formally evaluated elective course each trimester. The Strategy and Policy trimester for the College of Naval Warfare offers, among a number of elective opportunities, two of the politico-military games developed by the Studies, Analysis and Gaming Agency of the Joint Staff. These are games normally played by cabinet-level and four-star officers. The object is to provide our senior students with an opportunity to tie together the recurring themes of policy they have studied—and to exercise them at high-level decisionmaking under conditions of stress. If these games prove as successful as I expect, they may well play a larger role in the College's future electives program.

Former students will remember the now 19 year old Naval Electronic Warfare Simulator (NEWS) a war gaming

system now made obsolete by the evolution of naval warfare and by advances in gaming technology. The CNO has approved full funding in FY 1979 of a completely digitalized, high-capacity replacement for the NEWS which will meet the Navy's needs for the next 15-20 years. Professor Tom Weschler will head the team which has been tasked to develop the concept for utilization of this new facility in the Naval Operations curriculum. We expect to provide terminals in Norfolk, San Diego and Hawaii to facilitate high-level fleet use.

The Center for Continuing Education is taking the Naval Operations curriculum on a trial basis to the nuclear submariners in New London, and has embarked on a self-administered seminar program in the field to be conducted under the leadership of Naval War College graduates. Our correspondence courses are being reduced in length so that each section can reasonably be accomplished in one year.

The Center for Advanced Research continues to produce work of a caliber which warrants formal dissemination to the fleet. Development of a highly sophisticated tabletop gaming capability will be completed this year. We expect that this new capability will prove to be of great value in staffs and wardrooms as a means of increasing the competence

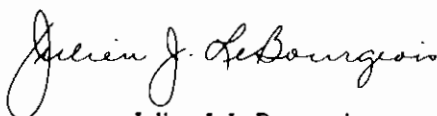
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of our officers in making the tactical choices associated with the new weapons systems, sensors and platforms which will soon arrive in the fleet. In addition to various other research efforts, the Center is also undertaking a Pacific Strategy Study, and a VTOL/VSTOL Employment Study both of which should be of assistance to decisionmakers. In short, we are providing opportunities for creative, innovative students and faculty members to contribute to the solution of problems which will confront naval leaders in the future.

In this issue of the *Review*, Richard C. Thornton discusses whether tripolar politics among the United States, the Soviet Union and Communist China tend to create a new equilibrium. His unorthodox evaluation of U.S. national interests is challenging. Rejecting modern explanations of the causes of revolution, Thomas B. Grassey returns to classic concepts of justice and perceived injustice in his discussion of revolutionary war. Speaking from first-hand experience in Vietnam and as interpreter for the U.S. Delegation to the Four Party Joint Military Commission in Hanoi, Lieutenant Colonel Sauvageot bases his discussion of the 1973 Paris Agreement on a recently published study.

Robert Wood sees the policy of détente as an attempt to reconcile the principle of sovereign equality of states and that of nonintervention in a context of the irreconcilable concepts held by the free world and the Communist world. Michael Doyle examines the relationship between national interests and policy, and the forces available to achieve national objectives. He uses as an example the period 1931-1941 in the Far East.

Howard Levie discusses some of the restraints international law has placed upon actions combatants may take in armed conflict. Professor Levie is the author of a forthcoming study, *Prisoners of War in International Armed Conflict*. Its publication in 1977 will add to the Naval War College International Law Studies or "Blue Book" series. Forthcoming thereafter will be another volume, this by Professor Richard B. Lillich of the University of Virginia, *Forcible Self-Help to Protect Nationals Abroad*.



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